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# Economic and Social Council

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**Committee for Programme and Coordination**
**Forty-third session**
9 June to 3 July 2003
Agenda item 9
**Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-third session**

*Rapporteur*: Mr. Jerry **Kramer** (Canada)

**Addendum**

## Programme questions: proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005

*(Item 4 (a))*

### Section 27
### Humanitarian assistance

1. At its 21st meeting, on 24 June 2003, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered section 27, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005 (A/56/6 (Sect. 27)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced section 27 and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the budget section.

**Discussion**

3. The Committee expressed appreciation for the critical and effective coordination role the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has played in responding to various humanitarian emergencies related to natural disasters and complex emergencies. The Committee also noted the difficult tasks that the Office has in managing a very complex structure but stated that the Office was nevertheless *successful in organizing and strengthening its capacity and presence in the field. It* was pointed out that donors have noted the improvements in the functioning and the efficiency of the Office, in particular the efficiency with which the Office has coordinated efforts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the need to strengthen the coordination among the various humanitarian partners. With regard to

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the coordination of operations of the Iraq crisis through New York, the Committee expressed the view that every effort should be made to avoid any duplication of efforts between New York and Geneva.

4. Support was also expressed for the mandate of the Office. It was pointed out, however, that measures need to be taken to address surge capacities and the large gap between the resources provided under the regular budget vis-à-vis voluntary contributions.

5. Satisfaction was expressed with regard to the significant role played by the Office in mitigating the Chernobyl disaster and the initiative by the Office to establish the International Chernobyl Research and Information Network, which will assist in facilitating the transition from relief to development in the States affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

6. It was noted that there were improvements in the workings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The Committee encouraged the secretariat of the IASC to continue to strengthen inter-agency coordination and to keep Member States informed of its work and increase coordination and consultation with the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations regarding United Nations responses to countries in or emerging from humanitarian crises.

7. The heavy dependence of the Office on extrabudgetary resources was noted. That dependence reflected the pattern of an inappropriately small share of the regular budget being devoted to human rights and humanitarian affairs. The situation put key functions at risk.

**Conclusions and recommendations**

8. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly approve the programme narrative of section 27, Humanitarian assistance, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004-2005.**

9. **The Committee, in reviewing section 27, noted the importance of extrabudgetary resources for administrative functions and recommended that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to submit a report defining administrative functions.**